

President's Report to the 2012 FIG General Assembly

1. Preamble

FIG draws its membership from the scientific, research and academic community, from practitioners working in both the public and private sectors as well as from the spatial and information technologies and commercial community. FIG is fortunate and thankful as we essentially function out of the goodwill, resources and contribution of our corps of volunteers from around the world as well as the contributions and support of its members.

2. Introduction

This report covers, generally, the period between the 2011 General Assembly in Marrakech, Morocco until the upcoming 2012 General Assembly in Rome, Italy and should be read together with papers and reports prepared and included in the 2012 General Assembly Agenda.

3. Working Weeks, Regional Conference and Congress

3.1 2011 Working Week

The Working Week in Marrakech, Morocco from 18th to 22nd May 2011 had the theme "Bridging the Gap between Cultures" and included the XXXIV General Assembly, a three-day technical program and an exhibition. The event was co-organized with the local member association, the *Ordre National des Ingénieurs Géomètres Topographes (ONIGT)*. More than 1,500 participants from 90 countries attended the event that included a technical program in excess of 90 sessions with close to 450 presentations, an exhibition that attracted over 50 companies. It is regarded as the biggest FIG Working Week ever, both in the number of participants and in the size of the exhibition.

This working week will also be remembered as the Council and Commission Work Plans were approved together with the formation of two new FIG Task Forces, on Surveyors and Climate Change (Prof. John Hannah, New Zealand as chair) and on Property and Housing (Prof. Chryssy Potsiou, Greece as chair). It will also be remembered for its discussion on member's voting rights that resulted in the formation of a Working Group comprising nominees from twelve member associations to carry further the discussions and deliberations and to bring to the 2012 General Assembly its report.

In economic terms, the Working Week was a success returning a healthy surplus and together with prudent financial management, allowed FIG to return the General Reserve to the mandated level, i.e. 90% - 100% of the year's regular expenditure.

3.2 2012 Working Week

FIG Office and the President made two working visits to Rome in the lead up to the 2012 Working Week. One the earlier visit, VP Chryssy Potsiou also participated in the working visit primarily to prepare for the inaugural Young Surveyors Conference.

3.3 8th Regional Conference

FIG Director together with the President made a working visit to Montevideo, Uruguay to scope and prepare for the 8th FIG Regional Conference that will be held between 26 and 29 November 2012 co-organizing with our Member Association in Uruguay, Asociación de Agrimensores del Uruguay (A.A.U.)

3.4 2013 Working Week

FIG Director and the President will be making a working visit to Abuja, Nigeria in the first week of March 2012 to inspect the site and prepare for the 2013 Working Week in May next year co-organizing with our Member Association in Nigeria, the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (N.I.S.)

3.5 2014 Congress

The FIG Council and the FIG Office inspected the site during a working visit to Kuala Lumpur to begin preparing for the 2014 FIG Congress in Malaysia. Council too had its face-to-face Council Meeting during the trip. FIG acknowledged, appreciated and thanked the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau (Ministry of Tourism Malaysia), Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Land Surveyors Board Malaysia and the Association of Authorised Land Surveyors Malaysia for their generous financial and logistical support that made the Council Meeting and Site Inspection possible.

4. Membership

At each General Assembly, new members are admitted while others that have failed to fulfill the obligations of membership are removed, in accordance with our Statutes and Bye-laws. After the 2011 Working Week, our membership stands at:

Member Associations	101
Corporate Members	28
Affiliate Members	41
Academic Members	93
Correspondents	18

with a presence in 130 countries.

During this period, Council has reviewed a number of applications and will recommend these to the General Assembly for admission. Equally, Council has to act and will propose member associations that are in arrears for three or more years for expulsion after much effort to retain their membership. Council too has received notice of termination from Corporate and Academic Members. A note of concern is the higher number of Academic Members facing

membership termination due to non payment of membership dues. The status could be summarized as follows -

	New Application	Termination	Proposed Expulsion
Member Associations	2		3
Corporate Members	2	5	
Affiliate Members			
Academic Members	3	10	
Correspondents		4	

Council has begun discussing the value and benefits of membership recognizing the need to better articulate and communicate the value and benefits of membership, particularly during these economic conditions where outgoings are being scrutinized by many an organizations.

5. *Task Forces*

Though the four Chairs of FIG Task Forces will make their respective reports to the General Assembly, it should be noted that the Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society is expected to bring its Work Plan to a conclusion and table its a final report at this General Assembly. The Task Force is expected to disseminate its result, a publication, before the end of 2012.

6. *Commissions*

VP Rudolf Staiger, the Chair of ACCO together with the ten Commission Chairs and the Chairs of the two Networks will make their respective reports to the General Assembly.

The conviction remains that Commissions are the “powerhouses” of the Federation, should undertake studies and activities in all disciplines of surveying, to effectively facilitate the technical program at FIG events as well as to deliver their respective Commission Work Plans. Members are urged to nominate and support enthusiastic national delegates and correspondents to the Commissions, to participate in the work of the Commission and their activities as these are vital toward efforts to bring benefits to the local membership.

Council will continue to co-ordinate Commission level activities as much as it is feasible including its workshops and symposia, aiming to serve the Federation’s membership in the desire that any of these activities and events is strategically and geographically positioned. Council appreciates Commission 7’s decision to hold its 2012 Annual Meeting and One-day International Symposium in Argentina and its 2013 event in Cameroun, where the event will be held together with Commission 2.

7. *Council*

7.1 *Council Meetings*

Since the Working Week in Marrakech, Council met face-to-face once on 12 & 13 February 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Council also held two meetings via email during this period and the next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for 3rd May 2012 in Rome, Italy.

7.2 Engagements and Visits

Council travels and visits were managed and focused on delivering the Council's Work Plan. Since the beginning of the term of this Council, the President, in the course of duty travels engage members in Hong Kong (Member Association), Italy (Member Association), Kenya (Member Association and Academic Member), PR China (Member Association and Affiliate Member), Mongolia (Member Association and Affiliate Member), Ethiopia (Member Association), Republic of Korea (Member Association), Argentina (Member Association), Uruguay (Member Association), Poland (Member Association), Australia (Academic Members) and between the time of writing this report until the General Assembly, expected to engage members in Belgium (Member Association) and Nigeria (Member Association). The President also had the opportunity to engage members (including those from FIG Corporate, Affiliate and Academic memberships) at various international events including regional groupings such as ASEANFLAG and CLGE.

Vice Presidents too shoulder the responsibility of engaging the membership and visited Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Russian Federation, Mongolia, Macedonia FYROM, Germany, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bulgaria. There were a couple of occasions where Commission Chairs represented FIG and participated events in Malaysia and Australia.

The Task Force for Africa had an eventful and successful workshop (1 – 2 December 2011) on "Building Resilience in the Profession: A focus on Young People and Women" in Cape Town co-organized and hosted by FIG's South African members. The Young Surveyors Network also supported the event. The Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society successfully co-convene with PCGIAP and GSDI an Expert Group Meeting (14 February 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) where it was agreed that spatially enabled societies recognize that all activities and events have a geographical and temporal context, make decisions and organize their affairs through the effective and efficient use of spatial data, information and services.

8. Cooperation with Sister Organizations

8.1 Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS)

The Joint Board for the Geospatial Information Societies (JB-GIS) at its meeting in Paris in July 2011 elected Prof William Cartwright from International Cartographic Association as the Chair. VP Iain Greenway, representing FIG, attended the meeting in Paris. The Joint Board is gaining prominence and importance, particularly within the United Nations initiatives on Global Geospatial Information Management. This was reaffirmed when the Chair of JB-GIS was included as a member of the "extended" Bureau for the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, underlying the necessity for international professional geospatial societies to work collaboratively and to have a collective voice within the United Nations system. In November, on the sideline of the United Nations First High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, an ad-hoc JB-GIS meeting was held and members within JB-GIS reaffirmed their desire to continue collaborating and to coordinate the work particularly in raising the profile of the importance of geospatial information in disaster management.

8.2 *International Association of Geodesy (IAG)*

Mikael Lilje (Chair of FIG Commission 5), Rob Sarib (Vice Chair of Administration), Graeme Blick (Chair of FIG Working Group 5.2) and Allison Kealy (Chair of FIG Working Group 5.5) attended the General Assembly for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in Melbourne where the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) is one of the eight scientific associations within IUGG with whom FIG has an operating Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with.

9. *Collaboration with the World Bank*

The 2012 edition of the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty brings together representatives from governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and the development community to discuss issues of concern to land practitioners and policymakers worldwide. The conference aims to foster dialogue and sharing of good practices by showcasing the diversity of reforms, approaches and experiences that are being implemented in the land sector around the world. With the theme "Land governance in a rapidly changing environment", FIG is collaborating with the Bank in the organization of this annual event that will include a joint segment that considers a number of issues related to assured and authoritative land and property information, and the growing recognition that there should be "continuum" of approaches and solutions, of technologies and technological sophistication

10. *Collaboration with the United Nations*

10.1 *United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management*

The United Nations convened the inaugural High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in October last year where international geospatial information societies within the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) represented at the Forum, including FIG, affirmed their commitment and pledged to use their collective professional expertise, research and development capacities to help realize the vision and goal of UN-GGIM, in particular, of building appropriate and sustainable geospatial information infrastructure at national, regional and global levels and of enhanced collaboration in the generation, dissemination and sharing of geospatial information. FIG together with allied organizations within the JBGIS opined that there is a need for international coordination on global geospatial information management with a vision to migrate to a paradigm of *managing all information geospatially*.

10.2 *United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)*

FIG attended the 23rd Governing Council of UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 April 2011 where the resolution on "Sustainable urbanization through equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure" was adopted on 15th April 2011. The Global Land Tools Network (GLTN) within UN-HABITAT must be congratulated for this landmark resolution that encourages Governments to improve urban governance to ensure expanded equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure; to promote security of tenure for all segments of society by recognizing and respecting a plurality of tenure

systems, adopting alternative forms of land administration and land records alongside conventional land administration systems, and intensifying efforts to achieve secure tenure in post-conflict and post-disaster situations as well as to create mechanisms for broadening land-based revenue streams, including improving the competencies and capacities in the field of land and property valuation and taxation.

The Global Land Tools Network Partners convened its 2011 Partners Meeting in Nairobi on 15 & 16 November 2011 with the theme “Strengthening Global Partnership: Sustaining a Paradigm Shift towards Designing, Developing and Implementing Pro-Poor Land Tools and Approaches” aimed at further strengthening the global partnership towards sustaining the paradigm shift in the development and implementation of pro-poor land tools and approaches and in the promotion of alternative land tenure and land management systems to improve tenure security within the land governance framework. The two-day event also decided on the representations to the International Advisory Board (IAB) and FIG was honored and privileged to be selected as the representative from the professional cluster and over the next two years will need to work on improving the feedback mechanisms and to strengthen working relationships and collaboration between and among partners within the professional cluster and across other clusters towards addressing emerging global challenges in the land sector.

10.3 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Bureau for the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has unanimously agreed to reconvene the Intergovernmental Negotiation on the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*. The negotiations will take place at UN FAO in Rome, Italy, March 5th – 9th, 2012 with an aim at reaching an agreement on a final version of the Voluntary Guidelines.

FAO Workshop on Gender-Equitable Governance of Land Tenure was held on 10 – 12 May 2011 at FAO in Rome and FIG was represented by VP Dalal Alnaggar. The Workshop brought together land sector professionals from government, civil society and the private sector to share their experiences of practical approaches to improving gender-equitability in governance of land tenure.

10.4 United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

The 26th Session of UNGEGN was convened in Vienna, Austria, 2-6 May 2011 and Mr. Gert Steinkellner, the President of the Austrian member association, represented FIG. This Group of Expert deals with technical, cultural and linguistic aspects of geographical names.

10.5 United Nations Office for Outer Space Affair (UNOOSA)

The Sixth Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) was held in Tokyo, Japan from 5 to 9 September 2011. The ICG has been formed as a result of recommendations of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS), as ratified by the General Assembly of the UN. The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is an Associate Member of the ICG. The meeting was attended by Matt

Higgins (Immediate Past FIG Vice President) and Mikael Lilje, (Chair, FIG Commission 5)

10.6 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) has taken the role to lead the UNGGIM initiative in Africa and convened the GGIM Africa Preparatory Meeting (8 – 10 August, 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) to consult member states in Africa with a view to develop the continent's needs, prospects and vision for an overall Geoinformation Governance in Africa and to recommend any action that may be required to guide member states in achieving a better coordination mechanism for geospatial information management. The President represented FIG at the meeting.

UNECA has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding that will be tabled at the General Assembly for endorsement. The MoU is intended to deepen collaborative activities between UNECA and FIG and is in support of improving access to information, specifically geospatial information, the promotion of geospatial science and technology for socio-economic development as a key objective.

10.7 United Nations sponsored Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP)

The President attended the 17th Meeting of PCGIAP (21 – 22 July, 2011) held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and during the meeting, it was resolved that there be a 4th Land Administration Forum with the theme “Beyond Spatial Enablement” at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructure and Land Administration (CSDILA) on 5 – 7 October 2011 and an International Symposium on Spatially Enabled Government and Society with the theme “Towards Spatial Maturity” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 15 & 16 February 2012. Both the events were supported by FIG and proved to be successful. Alongside the International Symposium was the Expert Group Meeting convened by PCGIAP Working Group 3, FIG Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society and the GSDI Association. The EGM brings together and provide a forum for professionals from government and private sector, academia and research institutes and technologies providers to discuss the issues, trends and technologies that impacts a spatially enabled government and society. Participants from the FIG at the EGM included President CheeHai TEO, Vice President Prof Ing. Rudolf Staiger, FIG Commission 4 Chair, Dr Michael Sutherland, FIG Task Force on Spatially Enabled Society Chair, Dr Daniel Steudler, Peter Laarakker from Dutch Kadaster/GIN, Enrico Rispoli from CNGeGL Italy and Brent Jones from ESRI.

FIG intends to seek avenues to collaborate with PCGIAP in furthering the “Sydney Agenda for Action” that has a primary focus on the small island developing states in the Pacific as these states are part of the 56 member jurisdictions of PCGIAP.

11. Finance and Administration

VP Iain Greenway who is responsible for Finance and Administration will table his report to separately to the General Assembly. It must be stressed that Council continue to recognize that we are in an era of austerity brought on by ongoing economic and financial uncertainties. These economic and financial uncertainties affect the Federation's membership directly. Over

the past year, FIG's administration and financial management were underpinned by fiscal prudence and restraint while providing the necessary administrative stability and sustainability.

12. Concluding Remarks

The President met the Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos during that period, a meeting that was also attended by Mr. Mohamed El-Sioufi (Head, Shelter Branch, Global Division), Ms. Clarissa Augustinus (Chief, Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section, Shelter Branch) and Mr. Danilo Antonio (Global Land Tools Network Secretariat, Land, Tenure and Property Administration Section). It was a most cordial meeting, the first between the newly appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat and FIG, that included a verbal invitation to the Executive Director to join us at our 2014 Congress.

FIG's 34th General Assembly saluted Prof. Stig Enemark's contributions to the profession and the Federation with an appointment as FIG Honorary President. The nomination came from the Danish Association of Chartered Surveyors (DdL), unanimously supported by the Council and President Henning Elmstroem of DdL made the recommendation before the General Assembly. Again, on behalf of the Federation, I thanked FIG Honorary President Prof. Enemark for an energetic and illustrious Presidency.

Congratulations go to Past FIG President Earl James who celebrated his 80th birthday in October 2011.

On a solemn note, our condolences to the family of Honorary Member Milan Klimes who passed away in January 2012.

Appreciation and much thanks go to all Member Associations as well as all Corporate, Affiliate and Academic Member, National Delegates and Correspondents, Chairs of Task Forces and their members, Chairs of Networks, Chairs of Commissions and their Vice Chairs, the Council and last but not least the FIG Administrative Staff as well as the many who has in one way or another contributed to another eventful FIG year.

CheeHai TEO

1st March 2012